Right of major communities to perform puja in Bhojshala in M.P.

3362. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have approached Government to issue an order about the rights of two major communities to perform puja and offer prayers, respectively, on specific days in the week in the protected monument of Bhojshala in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether the monument is open to the general tourists on the days other than Tuesdays and Fridays, when it is open for puja and prayers, respectively, by the two major communities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) After a brief exchange of correspondence about the manner in which the protected monument of Bhojshala should be opened, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh made certain suggestions/recommendations. These suggestions and decisions of the Central Government are contained in Statement-I (*See* below). Subsequently, the State Government wanted formal orders issued by Director General, ASI. The requisite order was issued and a copy of the order is at Statement-II (*See* below).

Keeping in view the background of the case and the practical considerations, the solution arrived at was considered to be most sound and feasible. The arrangements have worked satisfactorily. The number of visitors on different dates/days is at Statement-III.

Statement-I

The views of the ASI/Department of Culture, Government of India, on each of the Recommendations made by the State Government in Letter No. F.44-1-96/C-1 dated February 21, 2003

Recommendations of the Collector and District Magistrate	Views of ASI/Department of Culture
(I) That the Muslim community shall be allowed access to the premises as at present for the Friday Namaaz between 1 to 3 p.m.	Concurred

Recommendations of the Collector and District Magistrate	Views of ASI/Department of Culture
(II) That the Hindu community shall be permitted access to the premises to hold traditional ceremonies on the occasion of Basant Panchami every year.	Concurred
(III) the Hindu community shall be permitted access to the premises between 0900 and 1100 hours every Tuesday whilst prohibiting any slogans, pooja or havan in the premises or bringing of any idol or photographs of the deity or any pooja material.	Concurred, subject to the modification that the access would be given free of cost throughout the day, every Tuesday, that is, from sunrise to sunset—the normal time fixed for opening and closure of the protected monument. On that day, the visitor could take a flower or two and a few grains of rice.
(IV) Apart from the relaxations suggested at (I) and (II) above, the premises should also be opened to tourists, at a charge, each day between prescribed hours.	On all other days, an entry fee of Rupee 1.00 per person would be charged. Children (up to the age of 15) would be given free entry. The collection from this charge would be spent for the upkeep of the Bhojshala.
(V) In order to prevent any damage to this Protected Monument, the ASI shall ensure stationing adequate number of requisite personnel at the site. (VII) Adequate Central Para-Military Force shall be posted to protect this monument as is being done to protect other similar monuments.	As in any other protected monuments, a small watch and ward staff would be kept. But the responsibility for maintenance of law and order and ensuring safety and security of the buildings/visitors would be that of Collector and District Magistrate/State Government. In this connection attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 2 of Section 16 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological

Recommendations of the Collector and District Magistrate	Views of ASI/Department of Culture
	Sites and Remains Act, 1958. This Section, *inter alia*, requires: "...The Collector shall make due provisions for the protection of such monument or part thereof...."
(VI) The duration of access to the premises each day may be fixed in accordance with ASI rules as applicable to Protected Monuments.	Concurred.

Statement-II

Order issued by the D.G. A.S.I.

F. No. 33-41/97-M.(pt)

Dated : 7.4.2003

ORDER

I, Gauri Chatterji, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, in exercise of the powers conferred on me vide Rule 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, and in partial modification of order No. F. No. 11/5/97-M dated February 5, 1998, do hereby direct that the centrally protected monument, Bhojshala-Kamal Maulana Mosque at Dhar shall remain open on the following basis:

1. That the Muslim community shall be allowed access to the premises as at present for Friday Namaaz between 1 to 3 p.m.

2. That the Hindu community shall be permitted access to the premises to hold traditional ceremonies on the occasion of Basant Panchami every year.

3. That the Hindu community shall be permitted access to the premises, free of charge, every Tuesday from sunrise to sunset—the normal time fixed for opening and closure of the protected monument. On that day, the visitor could take a flower or two and a few grains of rice.

4. That apart from the relaxations enumerated above,the premises shall be open to tourists on all other days. An entry fee of Rupee 1.00 per person will be charged. Children (up to the age of 15) would be given free entry.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and until further orders.

Sd/-
(Gauri Chatterji)
Director General

Statement-III

Inflow of Visitors to Bhojshala between 8.4.2003 to 18.4.2003

Date	Number of Visitors	
08.04.2003	8679	Tuesday
09.04.2003	468	
10.04.2003	554	
11.04.2003	1200	Friday
12.04.2003	351	
13.04.2003	346	
14.04.2003	342	
15.04.2003	4553	Tuesday
16.04.2003	313	
17.04.2003	438	
18.04.2003	1461	Friday

Denial of Visa to the literary elites of Pakistan

3363. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a much publicized International Punjabi Conference organized by the Punjabi Academy of Union Territory of Delhi, Pakistani delegates remained away for want of Visa; and

(b) the reasons for denying Visa to the literary elites from Pakistan apart from the perennial hostility?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Funds allocated for promotion and development of tourism

3364. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state: